

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W  
----- 130618

R 081336Z AUG 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEHERAN  
SECDEF CLL WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER ECJ5

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5196

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, US, IS, XF

SUBJ: SECDEF INVITATIONAL - WRAP UP

1. SUMMARY. HIGHLIGHTS OF SECDEF INVITATIONAL ONE AND ONE-HALF DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL AUGUST 6-8 WERE MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, CHIEF OF STAFF GUR AND SENIOR IDF OFFICERS, AND TOUR OF GOLAN HEIGHTS. PRINCIPAL TOPICS IN DISCUSSIONS WERE PROSPECTS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT, US-ISRAELI RELATIONS, ISRAELI AID REQUEST, ASSESSMENT OF EVOLVING EASTERN FRONT, HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN, AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTION RE AID TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERIM AGREEMENT. RABIN AND PERES BOTH EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF COURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF ISSUES INVOLVED. RABIN SAID THAT HE HOPED AND BELIEVED THAT UNITES STATES NOW UNDERSTOOD ISRAEL'S POSITION, ADDING POINTEDLY THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE US AGREED WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THAT POSITION NOR DID HE WANT TO COMMIT THE USG TO IT.  
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PERES SAID THAT THERE WAS FAIR CHANCE OF REACHING

AGREEMENT BECAUSE US PRESTIGE WAS AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN ARAB WORLD, AND THAT ARABS UNDERSTOOD US INTEREST IN MOVING AREA TOWARD PEACE.

3. ISRAELI AID REQUEST. PERES TOLD CODEL THAT, IN ADDITION TO CURRENT AID REQUEST FOR \$2.56 BILLION, ISRAEL HAD ASKED US IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (A) AS COMPENSATION FOR GIVING UP ABU RODIS OILFIELDS AND (B) FOR BUILDING NEW SINAI DEFENSE LINE. NOTING THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE GIVING UP "SHORT GOOD LINE" FOR "LONG COMPLICATED LINE," PERES ESTIMATED COST OF NEW LINE AS \$300 MILLION AND SAID THAT ISRAEL ASKED US TO PAY FOR HALF.

4. LONG TERM AID REQUEST. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTION RE PROJECTIONS BEYOND FY 76, PERES SAID THAT IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH PRESIDENT NIXON LAST YEAR, ISRAEL HAD OUTLINED FOUR YEAR REQUIREMENT FOR DEFENSE AID TOTAL \$6 BILLION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, BASED ON PUBLISHED STATISTICS, THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN 20PERCENT INFLATION IN US SINCE ORIGINAL ARMS PURCHASE ESTIMATES HAD BEEN MADE, SO THAT ISRAEL NOW WOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE LESS EQUIPMENT FOR AMOUNTS REQUESTED.

5. ARAB ARMS PURCHASES FROM US AND EUROPE. SENATOR BUMPERS NOTED THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN HAVE BECOME LARGEST PURCHASERS OF ARMS FROM US AND ASKED FOR ISRAELI VIEW ON THIS DEVELOPMENT. PERES NOTED THAT IRAN SO FAR HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBLE WESTERN COUNTRY BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN RE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY COUP IN SAUDI ARABIA. COS GUR CHARACTERIZED SAUDI ARABIA AS "VERY, VERY THREATENING TO US IN THE FUTURE." AIR FORCE CHIEF GENERAL PELED NOTED THAT ARAB STATES WERE NOW PURCHASING SOPHISTICATED WEAPON SYSTEMS FROM BRITAIN, FRANCE AND US AS WELL AS FROM SOVIETS, CREATING NEW PROBLEM FOR ISRAEL OF COMPETITION WITH ARABS NOT ONLY ON QUANTITATIVE BUT ALSO ON QUALITATIVE BASIS.

6. EASTERN FRONT. GUR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRESENCE OF SAUDI FORCES AND EQUIPMENT IN SYRIA AND JORDAN, AND  
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NOTED CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR NEW SAUDI BASE AT TABUK. PERES SAID THAT SYRIAN-IRAQI WATER DISPUTE WAS UNLIKELY TO DETER IRAQ FROM ENTERING NEW WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, ADDING THAT ISRAEL WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT IRAQI FORCES JOINING JORDAN RATHER THAN SYRIA.

7 HAWK MISSILES. ANSWERING QUESTION ON ISRAEL'S REACTION TO PROPOSED SALE OF HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN,

PERES SAID THAT US COULD NOT " CLOSE ITS EYES" TO JORDANIAN REQUEST, AND THAT ISRAEL HAD NO OBJECTION TO ARMING OF JORDAN AT A MODERATE RATE BUT THAT MORE THAN THAT WOULD TEMPT JORDAN TO JOIN IN NEW ARAB-ISRAEL WAR. CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GAZIT PUT MATTER MORE FORCEFULLY, STATING THAT JORDAN WITHOUT EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE WOULD NOT JOIN NEW WAR, BUT THAT WITH SUCH A SYSTEM IT WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO SO. PELED, AFTER NOTING STRONG PERFORMANCE OF HAWKS IN OCTOBER 1973 WAR, SAID THAT 14 BATTERIES IN JORDAN WER OBSTACLE WHICH ISRAEL WOULD PREFER NOT TO CONFRONT, " BUT WE CAN CRUSH IT."

8. CUT-OFF OF US AID TO TURKEY. PERES, IN SUCCINCT COMMENT ON RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, SAID THAT IT WAS VITAL FOR THE FREE WORLD FOR US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TURKEY.  
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## Message Attributes

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